

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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CONNECTICUT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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"Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left. That is to say, you cannot love game and hate predators; you cannot conserve the waters and waste the ranges; you cannot build the forest and mine the farm. The land is one organism. Its parts, like our parts, compete with each other. The competitions are as much a part of the inner workings as the cooperations. You can regulate them--cautiously--but not abolish them."

William A. Breyfogle

in "Speak to the Earth," Published by
The Macmillan Company, 1961.

NOTICE OF THE 1963 ANNUAL MEETING:

TIME: Saturday, November 2, 1963 at 10:30 A. M.

PLACE: Wells Turner Library (Glastonbury Public Library)
2407 Main Street, Glastonbury.

The Library is located in the center of Glastonbury, diagonally across from Post Office and town parking lot. Direct entrance to Auditorium from parking lot in rear.

PROGRAM: Annual Business Meeting, including election of officers and trustees, reports of officers and committees, discussion of Chapter's program, dues apportionment with Sub-chapters and other business.

LUNCHEON: Bring your own picnic luncheon and beverage. Coffee will be provided by the Glastonbury Sub-chapter.

FIELD TRIP: After lunch there will be a tour to the Cotton Hollow Area of Roaring Brook including The Nature Conservancy Cotton Hollow tract.

REPORT ON THE SUMMER MEETING AT BUCK LODGE

On June 29th a meeting of the Connecticut Chapter was held at the Connecticut Arboretum in New London. The business meeting was conducted in the morning and the afternoon session was devoted to formulating plans and program for the National Conference in August so that we might fulfill our role as Host Chapter. Inclement weather precluded more than a cursory tour of the campus facilities to be used for the Conference.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The past year has seen much activity in the Connecticut Chapter. Hosting the National Conference was the major achievement. There have been many responses expressing pleasure and satisfaction with this event. The program had variety

and meaning for all who attended. The Chairman hereby expresses heartfelt thanks to all who helped with this event.

One new project, Folly Brook in Wethersfield Cove is an important new development because of its location within the Hartford metropolitan area. The Glastonbury Sub-chapter and the Glastonbury Conservation Commission have jointly been negotiating on the Cotton Hollow Natural Area. Negotiations are also in progress for further acquisition to the Walcott Preserve (Beckley Bog).

With the growth in membership and interest in The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut we must consider a means for more and preferably all of the membership to participate actively in our program. Perhaps using the sub-chapter organization such as has been successful in Glastonbury would greatly increase opportunities for participation--especially on projects of local concern.

STATE LEGISLATION ON PESTICIDES

The 1963 Connecticut Legislative Session passed at least three matters dealing with pesticides. The first and perhaps most important was the ending of the state subsidy for the Gypsy Moth Program. Towns may still undertake gypsy moth spraying programs but if they do the town itself must pay the entire cost. Attempts to reinstate the state subsidy will undoubtedly occur and should be watched closely and opposed unless existing circumstances of gypsy moth infestation alter drastically.

Secondly, Public Act #612 gave to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Natural Resources power to regulate the distribution, transportation and sale of pesticides. This authority becomes effective on January 1, 1964 and our latest information is that no details on the program are available.

Thirdly, Public Act #527 established a seven-member Pesticide Control Board with power to license and regulate the custom application of pesticides. The Chairman of the Board is to be Anthony Wallace of Windsor, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives. This Board's powers also become effective on January 1, 1964 and no definite information on its program is yet available.

It is hoped that shortly after the first of next year we will be able to have appropriate state officials come to a meeting with our membership to discuss their plans and programs under the recent legislation and specifically advise us how we can best cooperate with them to report apparent violations and other matters pertaining to pesticides.

Copies of the two public acts will be available for examination at the Annual Meeting.

RESOLUTIONS ON NATURAL AREAS

At an executive meeting of our Connecticut Chapter held on August 23rd during The Nature Conservancy National Conference at Connecticut College two resolutions were passed. One urged the State of Connecticut agencies concerned with natural resources to review their land holdings and designate natural areas to the extent appropriate. The other resolution specifically requested natural area designation on the Barn Island Marshes which are important for scientific study and hunting. These resolutions were then brought before the

National Board of Governors at the Conference and were endorsed by them. Copies have been sent to Governor Dempsey, Commissioner Gill of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and other state officials.

Following this were meetings of your Chapter Chairman and Alex Bergstrom representing our State Chapter with Commissioner Gill, Mr. Donald Mathews, Director of the Park and Forest Commission, and Mr. Lyle Thorpe, Director of the Board of Fisheries and Game, to discuss the actual designation of areas. Cooperation and willingness to consider suggestions for specific natural areas was expressed by all. The Chapter must now review and propose to the state a specific and detailed list of those state land holdings which should be designated as natural areas.

Any member having suggestions as to state parks, forests or other lands which should be designated as natural areas is urged to communicate the information to our Chapter Chairman or bring the information to the Annual Meeting.

The designation of natural areas is vitally important and with the existing cooperative attitude of the state officials we hope that many additional natural area designations can be accomplished at this time.

ACTION ON BARN ISLAND NATURAL AREA

A review of the Barn Island Wildlife Area has been completed by Dr. Frank Egler and Dr. William Niering and they are preparing recommendations as to which portions should be designated as natural areas. These recommendations will be presented to the Annual Meeting on November 2nd and, if approved, forwarded to the State Board of Fisheries and Game. A representative of the Board of Fisheries and Game will be invited to the Annual Meeting to participate in this matter. It is hoped that this natural area designation at Barn Island will be the first of many on state-owned lands in Connecticut in which our Chapter will actively participate.

SPONSORSHIP OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION WORKSHOP FOR ANNUAL TEACHERS CONVENTION

On the last Friday of October of each year school teachers in Connecticut select one of several workshops or conferences to attend. For the last several years one of the conferences has been an Outdoor Education Workshop designed to assist the teachers in conveying an appreciation and understanding of nature to their students. The workshops have been well attended and successful. The interested parties now wish to give their budding project a permanent sponsor and have asked our Chapter to undertake this project.

It will be proposed at our Annual Meeting in November that our State Chapter form an Outdoor Education Workshop Committee composed of school teachers and others interested in sponsoring an annual Teachers Convention section.

More details will be available at the Annual Meeting and action is planned at that time. This project will present an excellent opportunity to expose our children's educators to a bit of The Nature Conservancy message in a way which will assist them in their classroom procedures.

TAINE MOUNTAIN FUND DRIVE

The annual purchase payment of \$2,000 for this tract will now be due. A fund drive for that amount by the Taine Mountain Preserve Committee has been announced by John S. Dunning, Project Chairman. Contributions should be sent to him at Punch Brook Road, Burlington, Connecticut.

BANTAM RIVER PROJECT

Mrs. Eric Plehn announced some encouraging progress at the Annual National Conference in regards to this project. Some of the property owners along the Bantam River have signed the protective covenants to The Nature Conservancy to keep the river in its natural condition. These covenants are designed to keep the river free from unsightly and destructive developments and are a pioneering legal development being encouraged by our Chapter.

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